GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3789
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Easy Visas for Bangladeshis
Suman Shri Balka

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to implement the relaxed visa norms
announced for Bangladeshi citizens of age above 65 and below 13 without any further delay;

(b) whether intelligence agencies had warned that the move would lead to an influx of illegal immigrants;

(c) whether there is stiff resistance from intelligence agencies and the State Governments of West Bengal and Assam for this proposal;

(d) whether the Ministry plans to grant visa free entry to Bangladeshi citizens under the age of 18 years and above 65 years and also include Bangladesh in the list of nations who are provided electronic tourist visa on arrival; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)
(a) to (c): A proposal to grant multiple entry long-term Tourist Visa for a period of 5 years to Bangladeshi nationals above the age of 65 years is under consideration in consultation with all stakeholders. Concerns of the stakeholders including the State Governments and security agencies will be duly considered before taking a final decision in the matter.
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(d) & (e): There is no proposal to grant visa free entry to Bangladeshi nationals under the age of 18 years and above the age of 65 years. Presently, e-Tourist Visa scheme is available to nationals of 150 countries at 16 international airports in India. Inclusion of more countries in e-Tourist Visa scheme is a continuous process which is done after due consultation with the stakeholders.

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